

For Details, Contact:

Harold McKinney

Legal Counsel

Phone (502) 564-5841

Fax (502) 564-2912

Email: hmckinne@apal.aud.state.ky.us

Edward B. Hatchett, Jr.

Auditor of Public Accounts

144 Capitol Annex

Frankfort, KY 40601

News from State Auditor Ed Hatchett's Office

HATCHETT FINDS NO DEFICIT IN FORMER JEFFERSON COUNTY CLERK'S ACCOUNT

(Frankfort) State Auditor Ed Hatchett today released his audit of the 1998 financial statements of Former Jefferson County Clerk Rebecca Jackson. Although the clerk announced in January 1999 that she had a deficit in her office of approximately \$265,000, Hatchett said the audit showed there was no deficit.

According to Hatchett, the former clerk did not take into account her imprest cash fund and reimbursement of some previously paid legal costs by an insurance company. In addition, it was found that some revenues were incorrectly recorded. The audit found that revenues exceeded operating expenditures by \$64,036.

In a letter accompanying the audit, Hatchett said the financial statement referred to in the audit accurately reflected the receipts and disbursements of the former county clerk.

After payment of all expenses, excess fees from the clerk's office are paid to the county. At the time the fiscal court approved the clerk's expenditures, it projected that the clerk would return excess fees to the county of \$353,500. In fact, only \$64,036 in excess fees materialized.

The county clerk's responsibilities include collecting certain taxes, issuing licenses, maintaining county records, and providing other services. The clerk's office is funded through statutory fees collected in conjunction with these duties.

As Auditor of Public Accounts, Hatchett is responsible for auditing the accounts and financial transactions of Kentucky's county governments and state agencies. State law requires the Auditor to conduct annual audits of county clerks and sheriffs.